

Kentucky Literacy Link

A Publication of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

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What I've Learned From Grief This Spring

Mikkaka "MK" Overstreet is a KDE literacy consultant and the editor of this publication.

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

-Ian MacLaren ([source](#))

"Grief does not take you all at once, rather it creeps over you in the quiet moments when you are not expecting to find it under your skin. It whispers in the midst of the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It suddenly chokes you when you believe you should be over it already. It doesn't care whether you believe you have a right to grieve deeply. It doesn't listen to your reasons why the lost aren't truly yours to mourn. It will not be logically reasoned away. It will

have its way. It will be felt."

The above is part of a recent Facebook post I wrote. In March, my younger cousin was murdered. I hadn't been very close to her as an adult, but growing up we, along with her older sister, were together constantly. Because we didn't talk much, the magnitude of my grief caught me by surprise. My guilt over our diminished relationship made me feel as though I had no right to mourn her. Instead, I tried my best to support her sister and buried my grief under logic.

I went to work and school. I laughed and read and danced as usual. But I did not – still do not – feel normal. I say "fine" when people ask me how I am, but I'm not

fine. My heart is broken and I'm angry. But I keep going about my routine.

This made me wonder how many coworkers around me are hurting. How many parents are hiding their pain? How many children are fighting battles we cannot see? We live in a world that does not stop for our suffering. How many heroic people are getting up and facing their suffering head on each day?

We must be mindful of the complexities of life and the difficulties we are all fighting through. Be patient with those around you. Recognize a bit of your own hurt in those you encounter. Be kind to one another. Here's looking forward to May flowers.

Kentucky Department of Education Updates

[Effectively using staff make-up days: PD 360](#)

Due to weather cancellations this school year, superintendents, principals, and school councils should be preparing for additional "staff" days at the end of the year in order to meet contract obligations. It is critical that teachers see this as productive time.

One option might be for schools and districts to consider creating a professional learning "scavenger hunt" in PD 360 to familiarize teachers, leaders and others with this online resource. PD 360 is accessible through Kentucky's [Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System \(CIITS\)](#) and contains more than 3,500 video clips on more than 100 searchable topics including effectively teaching the Kentucky Core Academic Standards, classroom management, differentiation, clos-

ing the gap, project-based learning and more. There are also resources on the *Kentucky Framework for Teaching* based on the *Danielson Framework for Teaching* – the cornerstone for the statewide Professional Growth and Effectiveness System for which PD 360 will be a useful resource. All videos are produced with the highest level of quality—crafted by teachers and vetted by Ph.D.-level experts in education to ensure that only the very best practices are demonstrated. Some videos even feature Kentucky educators! Learn how one cooperative has used PD 360 in this archive [story](#) from *Kentucky Teacher*.

[Professional Growth and Effectiveness System FAQ Document](#)

The ONGL staff has collected frequently asked questions as they have met with educational cooperatives and as coaches have provid-

ed support in the regions. Thank you for asking these questions! Answers to the questions can be found [here](#). We will regularly update the FAQ as new topics/items arise.

[Resources to Support Standards](#)

KDE has multiple resources in support of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards on its [web-site](#). Other resources include this [Common Misconceptions page](#) from the Foundation for Excellence in Education, or this [Policy Points fact sheet](#) from ASCD. Also, this [illustrative video](#) from the Council of the Great City Schools provides an animated overview of what the standards are, why they were created and how they help ensure students measure up with those in other states and countries.



Spotlight: Owsley County High School

Tina Bobrowski is the Media Specialist and Spanish teacher at Owsley County High School. She also actively assists with many district endeavors. Mrs. Bobrowski has been an educator for nearly 22 years with the Owsley County School District.

Faced with floundering circulations and a limited budget, I, like many other media specialists, was looking for low or no cost ways to get students back in the library and put resources in their hands. In the weeks that followed the beginning of my quest, Google and Pinterest became my best friends. What I found left me slapping my forehead wondering, "Why didn't I think of that?" To save you the same research time, and the embarrassment of the "why didn't I" moment, let me share what I found and what my media clerk and I implemented.

WEED the collection. If it hasn't moved in 10 (or number of your choice) years, it goes. We discarded 573 books. We probably should have discarded more, but we chose to begin this process at a moderate pace. Now, given that librarians are archivists by nature, this is tough. I appeased my conscience thusly: I found an elementary literacy program that was looking for books to give to the older siblings who often accompanied their little brothers and sisters to the book giveaways. I created a "patron" called "discarded books" to check out the weeded books one final time.

All that empty space you've now created on your shelves is perfect for face-forward book cover displays. I was amazed at how these face-forward books checked out. I go behind each group and pull more books face forward to fill the empty spots. The prettier the book cover, the better.

We created thematic book display areas. We have three areas – a round table, a shelf, and the top of the built-in shelves – that we regularly change displays of books on. We also try

book pairings from time to time where we bundle nonfiction and fiction books that address the same topics. I know what you are thinking – the books aren't in order! Remember though that those ABC and numeric order books weren't leaving the shelves. What good were they to anyone? Our displays haven't created any problems with locating a book yet.

Make the library comfy. I found a couch and chair that no one was using in the back of an office at school. I dusted them off and dragged them to the library. If you're reading, you can sit there.

Change your circulation policy. Our new policy says as long as you are a patron in good standing, with no overdue books or outstanding fines, you can check out as

Library Statistics for the date range 11/1/2013 to 4/8/2014

	Total Circulations	Total Holds Placed
Total	1,543	11

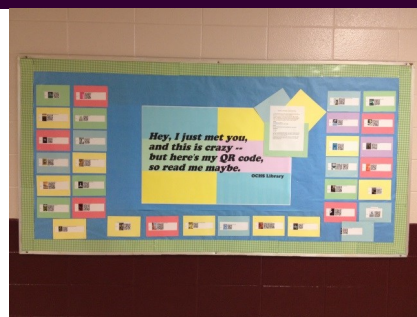
Library Statistics for the date range 11/1/2012 to 4/8/2013

	Total Circulations	Total Holds Placed
Total	436	10

many books as you want. We schedule regular fine forgiveness days. If nickel fines are your school's current way of encouraging students to return books on time, consider very frequent fine forgiveness days.

My final no-cost step? Media blitz. I used [Smore](#), the district Facebook page, the district's Twitter account, and e-mail to get the word out about the "new" library. I revamped the library's homepage. I made [Animoto](#) commercials and emailed them to every student and teacher. I used the school's poster maker and made interesting posters for the school hallways. When classes were scheduled to come to the library for book checks, I set iPads with book trailers ready to play beside copies of the featured books.

I made [JING](#) videos of myself showing students and teachers how to use the feature of our [Follett Destiny library system](#) and emailed those out to students and teachers. I made a book trailer QR Code bulletin board for books in our collection and spent some time in the hallway showing students how to load QR Code readers to their



smart devices and watch the book trailers.

And speaking of smart devices, I allow them. When I see students packing a smart device in the library, I ask the students if they can load apps and, of course, proceed to help the students load the Destiny Quest app to their devices. The next time I see these students, I show them how to access our Follett shelf e-books.

Reach out to your target audience. Form partnerships with your fellow teachers and actively seek to incorporate the library, its resources and your skills into units of instruction in new ways. I partnered recently with the 10th and 11th grade language arts teacher to change up her typical book report. Students now write book reviews and submit them to me via Destiny Follett to be included in the catalog search. Call or visit teachers during their planning and ask for or suggest ways that you and the library can help.

I instituted my changes in October of 2013. I, however, didn't include October's statistics in my chart (in case a few of you are wary of counting that final circulation of the 573 weeded books as a true circulation). (See library statistics chart, center page.)

As you can see, I've increased circulations by 3.5 times. When you take into consideration that we missed 31 days due to weather during the 2013-2014 school year vs. only eight days during the 2012-2013 school year, the figures become even more impressive. When you further consider that there are only 326 students in grades 7-12, then the volume of circulation is placed into perspective.

Be willing to change. Be willing to talk to students and teachers about needs and wants. Listen to someone who's been there, done that.



Governor's Mansion Centennial Arts and Essay Contest

First Lady Jane Beshear announced the winning entries in the Kentucky Governor's Mansion Centennial Celebration Visual Art and Essay Contest. The student winners were honored at a special reception at the Governor's Mansion on April 23.

As part of the 100th anniversary celebration of the mansion, public, private and home school students were invited to submit original artworks and/or essays illustrating a specific theme celebrating the mansion's history. The winning entries were chosen from among hundreds submitted by students in various age categories.

"This contest was a way for Kentucky students to connect with the history of our state and with the mansion's Centennial celebration," Mrs. Beshear said. "The mansion has a rich architectural, political and social heritage that provides many avenues for learning. The students entering this contest had an opportunity to study this state treasure and then demonstrate their learning by creating an original work that we all can enjoy."

A panel of writing experts from the Kentucky Department of Education judged the essays entered on content and quality of research, exposition (language skills, organization and grammar) and strength of argument (support of claims using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence).

A panel of arts experts from the Kentucky Arts Council and the Kentucky Department of Education judged the visual arts entries against stated criteria including creativity, composition, craftsmanship, whether the entry addressed the theme and the historical accuracy of the depiction.

The first place winner in each category, along with his/her parents or guardian and teacher were given the opportunity to visit and tour the mansion on April 23. The winners were recognized during a luncheon and special ceremony with the First Lady. Each student winner will receive a \$100 prize and the winning art works and essays will be displayed at the mansion and become part of its permanent collection.

Students with second or third place entries or those receiving an honorable mention will receive a certificate signed by Gov. Ste-

ve Beshear, the First Lady and Education Commissioner Terry Holliday. The rest of the entrants will each receive a certificate of participation.

"There's no doubt we have very talented young people in Kentucky," Mrs. Beshear said. "Their work is a testament to not only their talents but also to the teachers, parents and others who nurture that creativity and continue learning every day."

The First Lady, the Kentucky Governor's Mansion Centennial Committee and the Kentucky Department of Education spon-



sored the Governor's Mansion Centennial Visual Art and Essay Contest. It is one of many events scheduled throughout the year celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Kentucky Governor's Mansion.

All Centennial events and exhibits are sponsored through private donations to the Kentucky Executive Mansions Foundation, Inc. (KEMFI). KEMFI is a 501(c)(3) organization established to undertake, promote and assist financially and otherwise the modification to the restoration, maintenance and preservation of public buildings, sites, structures, places and objects of historic significance owned by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

ESSAY COMPETITION WINNERS

Grades 4-6

1st place: Bailey Richardson, Caneyville Elementary, Grayson County
2nd place: Lydia Mills, Estill Co. Middle School, Estill County
3rd place: Campbell Johnson, Athens-Chilesburg Elementary, Fayette County

Grades 7-9

1st place: Andrew Sauls, North Middle School, Henderson County
2nd place: Annika Avula, Drakes Creek Middle School, Warren County

3rd place: Lee Mills, Estill Co. Middle School, Estill County

Grades 10-12

1st place: Jessica Klusty, Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green Independent
2nd place: Jordan Hancock, Muhlenberg Co. High School, Muhlenberg County
3rd place: Rachel de Rosset, Madison Southern High School, Madison County

ARTS COMPEITION WINNERS

Grades Kindergarten - 2

1st place: Sarah Maloney, Simpson County Elementary, Simpson County
2nd place: Jordan Viele, Lancaster Elementary, Garrard County Schools, teacher Tonya Austin
3rd place: Rileigh K. Reed, Burns Elementary, Daviess County Schools, teacher Liz Milburn

Grades 3-5

1st place: Daniel Godewis II, Mason Corinth Elementary, Grant County
2nd place: Yanxi Sophia Liu, Ashland Elementary, Fayette County
3rd place: Anna Hawkins, Wyman-Pine Grove Elementary, Laurel County
Honorable Mention: Amiria Smith, Wilkerson Elementary, Jefferson County

Grades 6-8

1st place: Rosie Davila, West Jessamine Middle, Jessamine County
2nd place: James Yeckering, Ohio County Middle School, Ohio County
3rd place: Brittney Lynn Newman, South Floyd Middle, Floyd County

Grades 9-12

1st place: De' Sean Ta-Jae' Isom, Pleasure Ridge Park High, Jefferson County
2nd place: Zachary Williams, Greenwood High School, Warren County
3rd place: Adelle Leigh-Anne Malone, Central Hardin High, Hardin County
Honorable Mention: Sheri Storm, Daviess County High, Daviess County

To view the works of each first place winner, click [here](#).

For information about the mansion, tours and all the centennial events, visit the Governor's Mansion [website](#), like the "Kentucky Governor's Mansion" on [Facebook](#) and follow "GovMansion1914" on [Twitter](#).

Summer Reads at Metcalfe County High School

[Kelly Bell](#) is the principal at Metcalfe County High School. Bell has 14 years elementary and high school experience as a principal, has been a health educator, spent ten years as an elementary teacher and is a motivational speaker.



Students who completed SUMMER READS at a proficient level enjoying a cool slide on a hot day.

Metcalfe County High School was named a bronze school by U.S. News and World Report and ranked 50th out of 230 KY high schools.

Metcalfe County High School (MCHS) was abuzz with the activity of a school wide reading project. SUMMER READS were assigned to each grade level, and our students worked hard. Freshmen and sophomores read *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, a book on preparedness and self-responsibility in an ever-changing world. Juniors read Coach Wooden's book *On Leadership*, a text about basic foundational aspects of leadership in all of life's situations. Seniors read *Tuesdays with Morrie*, a story of life's changes and best practices to deal with change, good or bad.

Our students stepped up to the challenge! About 350 students from a population of 436 participated. Some students came to school throughout the summer to read while many others completed their books at home. The students who passed an Accelerated Reader test on their book at a proficient level enjoyed the rewards of a job well-done, which included a water slide and bounce gym at school followed by an all-expense paid trip to the Kentucky State Fair, one of the top state fairs in the country! Where else can you see a 30 pound



A goat with no ears at the fair.

rabbit, goats with NO ears, and young Metcalfe County residents winning at all levels in the cattle and goat shows? We were able to cover the expenses thanks to local team efforts by 4-H Extension agent, MCHS Family Resource Youth Service Center, and the local extension board. These community partners believe in the power of providing educational experiences beyond the school walls.

We will be assigning SUMMER READS again this year and hope to take five buses of proficient readers!

Summer Professional Learning Opportunities from KWP

[Jean Wolph](#) is the Louisville Writing Project (LWP) Director and Kentucky Writing Projects (KWP) Network Director.

The Education Professional Standards Board found in a recent study of writing instruction in Kentucky that students of teachers who participated in KWP Professional Development (PD) outperformed others on state writing assessments. Below are opportunities for you to take part in PD opportunities with the KWP this summer.

[Cognitive Coaching](#)

This workshop will include the first two days of the popular Cognitive Coaching Seminars® Foundation Training.

[Common Core Academy](#)

Focus on effective strategies for teaching Argument, Narrative, or Informational reading/writing and unit development using the Literacy Design Collaborative system.

[Content Literacy Academy](#)

Focus on effective strategies for integrating reading, writing, listening/speaking in ways that emphasize content learning.

[ELL Academy](#)

Learn classroom-tested strategies and gain confidence in your ability to reach English learners.

[Grammar Workshop](#)

Explore grammar in real-world contexts, examine the KCAS Language Standards, participate in model grammar lessons, discover how to teach meaningful grammar lessons with one sentence, learn a research-based framework for integrating grammar instruction and draft a grammar lesson using reading materials from your own classroom.

[New Voices Institute](#)

Teacher consultants who have worked with Actors' Theatre to engage students in play-writing will share classroom-tested strategies and materials that address speaking/listening, reading & writing standards.

[PGES Workshop](#)

In 2014-2015 the professional growth and effectiveness system (PGES) will be fully implemented statewide with full accountability in Spring 2015. Learn how to navigate

the system and use key resources to assist you/your staff in improving instruction.

[Reading Fluency Workshop](#)

This workshop is designed to enhance teachers' professional toolboxes with strategies that develop students' fluency and stamina as they strive to meet the demands of the Common Core.

[SciJourn Workshop](#)

This 3-day workshop will support you in engaging students in meeting the new Common Core Standards for research through the [SciJourn](#) process.

[Tech Academy](#)

Participants will receive an iPad mini and three days of PD on how to use this device and other technologies in their classrooms.

[Writing Workshop](#)

This reading/writing workshop-approach to learning will focus especially on the techniques for Opinion and Argument Writing, K-12.

Letters about Literature Essay Contest 2014

The Kentucky Department of Education has announced the Kentucky winners in the 2014 national Letters About Literature (LAL) annual writing contest.

Sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Letters About Literature (LAL) writing contest for young readers challenges students to write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, of a book that inspired them. The book may be from any genre – fiction, nonfiction, poetry, contemporary or classic. The letter must explain how that author's work changed the student's way of thinking about the world or themselves. The contest is open to students in grades 4-10.

Kentucky students compete with each other in the state competition. First, second and third place winners in three grade levels receive cash awards (1st place – \$150; 2nd place – \$75; 3rd place – \$50). The first place winners at each level advance to the national judging and a chance to win a \$1,000 cash award or \$150 for second place. National winners will be announced in May.

Kentucky's 2014 Letters About Literature writing contest winners are:

Level 3 (Grades 9-12)

1st place – [Lillian Beichler](#), Rockcastle Co. High School (Rockcastle Co.)

Teacher – Janet Wells

2nd place – [Lauryn McNair](#), Henry Clay High School, (Fayette Co.)

Teacher – Kevin Lentz

3rd place – [Rachael Gilbert](#), Henry Clay High School, (Fayette Co.)

Teacher – Kevin Lentz

Honorable Mention – [Bethany Boggs](#), Lafayette High School (Fayette Co.)

Teacher – Amanda Wright

Honorable Mention --- [McKenzie Florence](#), Pendleton, Co. High School (Pendleton Co.)

Teacher -- Angel Sudberry

Level 2 (Grades 7-8)

1st place – [Noah Bunch](#), Brown School, (Jefferson Co.)

Teacher – Allana Thompkins

2nd place – [Emily Frye](#),

Mt. Washington Middle School (Bullitt Co.)

Teacher – Michelle Chitwood

3rd place – [Alyssa Greer](#), Henry F Moss Middle School (Warren Co.)

Teacher – Laura Eason

Level 1 (Grades 4-6)

1st place – [Mary Grace Vest](#), Shelby West Middle School (Shelby Co.)

Teacher – Teresa Walther

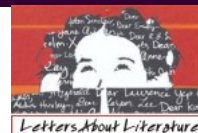
2nd place – [Sophie Moore](#), T.C. Cherry Elementary School (Bowling Green Ind.)

Teacher – Michele McCloughan

3rd place – [Anastasia Hinton](#), School for the Creative and Performing Arts (SCAPA) (Fayette Co.)

Teacher – Kelly Gunn

If you'd like to read the winning letters, simply click on the winning student's name. For more information, visit [KDE's LAL webpage](#).



2014 Kentucky Bluegrass Award Winners Announced

The Kentucky Bluegrass Award (KBA) is a student choice program that promotes and encourages Kentucky students in kindergarten through grade 12 to read a variety of quality literature. All Kentucky public and private schools, as well as public libraries, are welcome to participate in the program.

The 2014 Kentucky Bluegrass Award Winners are:

- K-2: *This Is Not My Hat* (Candlewick) by Jon Klassen
- 3-5: *Wonder* (Knopf) by R. J. Palacio
- 6-8: *The Ghost of Graylock* (Scholastic) by Dan Poblocki
- 9-12: *I Hunt Killers* (Little, Brown) by Barry Lyga

You may access the master lists at each grade level by clicking on the links below.

- [K-2 Master List](#)

- [3-5 Master List](#)
- [6-8 Master List](#)
- [9-12 Master List](#)

Mary Amato, author of *Guitar Notes*, will be the speaker for the Kentucky Bluegrass Award Luncheon which will be held during the KLA/KASL Conference on September 20, 2014, in Louisville at the Galt House. More information about the conference will soon be available on the [KLA website](#).

Making Stories Come Alive

[Annie Murphy Paul](#) is an author, journalist, consultant and speaker who helps people understand how we learn and how we can do it better. A contributing writer for *Time* magazine, she writes a weekly column for *Time.com*, and also blogs at *CNN.com*, *Forbes.com*, *MindShift.com*, and other reputable sites.

Physically acting out a written text—as an actor would walk himself through the gestures and emotions of a soliloquy during rehearsal—is an effective way to commit that text to memory. For adults, this process

of enactment imbues abstract words with concrete meaning, fixing them more firmly in our minds.

For children, acting out words on the page can also yield benefits. Especially for beginning readers, physically moving objects or one's own body can provide a crucial bridge between real-life people, things, and actions, and the printed words meant to represent them. Fluent readers take this correspondence for granted, but many children find it difficult to grasp.

In everyday life, after all, the words “dog” or “cup” are usually encountered when there's an actual dog or cup around. But inside the pages of a book, words must be understood in the absence of such real-world “referents.” The research of Arthur Glenberg, a professor of psychology at Arizona State University, has demonstrated that when children are given the opportunity to act out a written text, their reading comprehension can actually *double*.

Read the rest of this blog [here](#).

Kentucky Bio: Natural Diversity in the Commonwealth

Kentucky Educational Television (KET) has partnered with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, the University Press of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Wickcliffe Mounds State Historic Site to develop an ebook for the 21st-century classroom. *Kentucky Bio: Natural Diversity in the Commonwealth* was made possible through a grant from The Ryan Fund of the Green River Area Community Foundation and The Pentair Foundation.

Developed as a supplement to existing Kentucky-based curriculum for grades 4-6, the multimedia ebook consists of five chapters. From *What Is Biodiversity?* to *Why Is Biodiversity Important to You?* students learn about the unique natural and geographic diversity

of our state and the ways in which they can help preserve the environment for future generations. The ebook also provides engaging learning experiences related to biology, geology, and environmental science concepts and vocabulary.

Kentucky Bio features images and interactives adapted from *Kentucky's Natural Heritage: An Illustrated Guide to Biodiversity* published by the Nature Preserves Commission and the University Press of Kentucky. In just two of the many interactive elements, students will *Design an Ecosystem* and *Follow Kentucky Through Geologic Time*. The ebook also features video from the award-winning KET series *Kentucky Life* and KET educational resource collections such as *Think Garden* and *Water Solutions*.

According to Esther Tattershall, the *Kentucky Bio* producer, "At KET we think teachers do amazing work in the classroom every day. We want support them in any way we can. In providing teachers with quality instructional resources like *Kentucky Bio*, we hope to partner with educators across the Commonwealth." To check out this award winning, free, standards-based online resource, visit PBS LearningMedia or Kentucky iTunes U.

[Kentucky Bio: Natural Diversity in the Commonwealth](#) on PBS LearningMedia

[Kentucky Bio: Natural Diversity in the Commonwealth](#) on iTunes U

New Resources to Support Student Growth Goal-Setting

New resources which lead educators through the process of identifying enduring skills, concepts or processes to support the development of Student Growth Goals in the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) are available. The process directs participants to analyze standards documents

using filters to identify enduring learning.

While initial lists provide examples from most content areas, understanding the process for identifying what is enduring in any content area provides more flexibility and autonomy for focusing a goal. Additionally,

understanding the process helps ensure congruency to academic standards.

After identifying the enduring skills, the next step is to dig into grade level standards to identify what proficiency means for students in that grade and what

sources of evidence are available or need to be created.

The resources for identifying enduring skills are found on the [Student Growth](#) webpage, including notes to guide facilitators in supporting student growth in their district and/or school.

Upcoming Literacy Events Around Kentucky

KCEE Life Fundamental\$ Summit

The 7th Annual KCEE Life Fundamental\$ Summit—Teaching Dollars & Sense—to be held at the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, Louisville, KY on June 23 and June 24. There will be concurrent sessions focused on economics and financial education topics, classroom resources, best practices, great speakers, and interactive learning! Receive lunches, educational resources and an attendance certificate for up to 10 hours of PD credit. The Summit is a partnership of the Kentucky Council on Economic Education, Indiana Council on Economic Education, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Kentucky Department of Education, and Kentucky Jump\$art Coalition. Register [online](#).

KET Multimedia PD Event

If you are a Kentucky teacher, library media specialist, teaching staff worker, or administrator (public, private, and homeschooled included) go to the [registration web page](#)

and complete the form to register for the July 16 event. You'll see a list of event sessions to choose from along with lunch choices. After you have filled-out your session and lunch choices, choose a payment option. The registration fee of \$50.00 per person includes lunch and refreshments, and helps to support travel expenses for our event presenters. If paying by check or purchase order, please mail those in as soon as you can. This year's [session titles](#) are at the registration website. For more information about registration and PD credit, contact [Cynthia Barton](#), KET.

2014 SCOTT TRIMBLE CONFERENCE

Make plans to attend the 2014 Scott Trimble Assessment Conference October 20-21 at the Galt House in Louisville. The theme this year is "Bridging the Achievement Gap: College and Career Ready for All." Does your school have an innovative method to reach all students and bridge the

achievement gap? Have you discovered a way to reach all students in your classroom? Share your success with educators from across the Commonwealth! Presenters receive free registration to the Scott Trimble Assessment Conference. To submit a presentation proposal click [here](#). Deadline for proposal submission is on or before July 23.

2014 ISLN/KLA Summer Conference

Save the date for the 2014 ISLN/KLA joint summer conference! Join us at the Lexington Center on June 26th for TED talks and breakout sessions led by local leaders and on June 27th for facilitated work sessions. The focus of the conference is effective teaching, learning and leadership. The conference is open to all principals, district leaders and teacher leaders! Click [here](#) to register. #kypromisecr



Help

Your contributions of ideas and lessons that work are welcome. E-mail mikkaka.overstreet@education.ky.gov to submit. Your submissions may be included in the Literacy Link to help connect teachers across the state by sharing ideas, insights and best practices.

Access this and past Literacy Links on KDE's website:
[Click Here](#)



If you have questions or concerns, we want to help. Contact:

- Cindy Parker – Literacy Coordinator – cindy.parker@education.ky.gov
- Kelly Clark – Literacy Consultant – kelly.clark@education.ky.gov
- Jackie Rogers – Literacy Consultant – jackie.rogers@education.ky.gov
- Teresa Rogers – Literacy Consultant – teresa.rogers@education.ky.gov
- Pamela Wininger – Literacy Consultant – pamela.wininger@education.ky.gov
- MK Overstreet – Literacy Consultant – mikkaka.overstreet@education.ky.gov
- Kathy Mansfield– Library Media/Textbooks Consultant – kathy.mansfield@education.ky.gov



Feedback from the Field

Your feedback helps us to tailor the Link to best meet the needs of teachers. Tell us how you're using it. Tell us what you want to see more or less of. We want to hear from you! E-mail [MK Overstreet](mailto:MK.Overstreet).

"I have been editing our Literacy newsletter [at Lewis and Clark Com-

munity College in Illinois] for almost 10 years. I saw your newsletter and thought the format especially useful to the tutors and coordinators. My first revamped issued of the Tutor Times newsletter came out today and I want to thank your organization for the inspiration."

Chay L.

Thank you for the vocabulary resources you shared in the April newsletter. I appreciate practical things that I can use in my classroom!

-Jessica B.



Additional Reading and Other Resources

- The [gravitytank](#) team that worked on the Common Assignment Study has been working on a resource that teachers might find useful. From their conversations with teachers, an exciting design challenge emerged: finding a clear way to communicate the Common Core State Standards. In their infographic "[Decoding the Common Core](#)", they do not propose to resolve any debates that people may be having about the standards or even fully explain all of the standards themselves. They have made an attempt at describing one exemplary standard to articulate its potential promise to the school community.
- Looking for rich visual data to stimulate student thinking? Consider [these graphics](#) from the American Time Use Survey, a ridiculously detailed trove of data the Labor Department maintains. The charts paint a picture of what Americans do all day, as of 2012 — the most recent data that are available.
- The U.S. Department of Education has released a framework for schools and their broader communities to use in order to build parent and community engagement. Across the nation, less than a quarter of residents are 18-years-old or younger, and everyone has a responsibility for helping schools succeed. The [Dual Capacity framework](#) -- a process used to teach staff to effectively engage parents, and for parents to work successfully with the schools to increase student achievement -- provides a model that schools and districts can use to build the type of effective community engagement that will make schools the center of communities.
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has put together an [informative video](#) highlighting the importance of the Common Core State Standards and correcting misinformation. This new video provides statements of support from superintendents, teachers, parents, legislators and others. [CoreStandards.org](#) is the official online home of the Common Core State Standards. [WhatistheCommonCore.org](#) is another helpful resource as is the Kentucky Core Academic Standards [webpage](#) on the KDE website -- all helpful places for parents, educators and policymakers to obtain clear information.
- With the help of PGES pilot districts, the effectiveness coaches have assembled a [month-by-month implementation guide](#) with links to the resources that schools and districts may use to help implement the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (PGES) fully in 2014-15, as required by statute. If you haven't started implementation, this document takes you through all steps. If you are further down the line, use the resources as they fit your needs.

